

MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NEWS



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SUBJECT: MEMA Offers Citizens Preparedness Guidelines for Orange Level

(Jackson) – The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating local, state, and federal resources to **protect and prepare** the public during disasters and emergencies. MEMA, working with all State and Federal agencies, has prepared plans for all types of emergencies. The plans include public awareness and education, training emergency personnel for response, and coordination of all resources to assist citizens in the recovery process.

“We understand that the citizens of our State are concerned about their safety and security during the increased threat level. Many times their concern is the result of inaccurate and incomplete information on the actions they should take. A well informed public can and will result in a better-prepared public,” said MEMA Director Robert Latham. “Regardless of the type of emergency there are steps every individual and their family should take to prepare.”

Each family should develop and review a Family Disaster Plan for any type of emergency. The plan should include an evacuation plan, a communication plan, and a disaster supply kit.

1. Develop and Review a Family Evacuation Plan

Contact your Local Emergency Management Director to learn of your community's emergency plan, location of shelters and hospitals, evacuation routes and emergency warning system. If an incident occurs, listen to local radio or television and follow the instructions of emergency officials. Evacuate immediately, if told to do so and lock your homes when you leave. Travel routes specified by local officials, taking your Family Disaster Supply Kit with you. You may be asked to **"Shelter-in-place"** for a short period of time until emergency officials provide additional information. **"Shelter-in-place"** means to go indoors, seal one room (10 square feet per person for up to 5 hours), and close all outside doors and windows. Turn off all window fans; dryers, kitchen and bath exhaust fans, air conditioners and other sources of outside air. If you are traveling in an automobile, close windows and air vents. Continue to monitor the media for further instructions.

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2. Develop and review a Family Communications Plan

This plan will give assurances that all are safe and enable you to make plans to get back together. Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to serve as the family contact. After a disaster, it is often easier to call long distance, outside of the disaster area. Make sure all family members know the name, address, and telephone numbers of the contact person.

3. Develop and maintain a current Family Disaster Supply Kit

A Disaster Supply Kit should consist of the materials your family would need to survive for 3 to 7 days without power. This is the same type of kit that should be in place to survive the aftermath of a tornado or hurricane. The Kit should include: non-perishable food; water (at least one gallon per person, per day); a First Aid Kit with prescription medicines; **a battery powered radio** and NOAA weather radio; flashlights with extra batteries; specialty items necessary for babies or elderly; pet care items; blankets & pillows; **tape and plastic sheeting (for securing one room with 10 square feet per person for up to 5 hours)**; toiletries; vehicles with full fuel tanks and an amount of cash, in case banks or ATMs are not available.

Helpful web sites for more information:

- www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov
- www.msdh.state.ms.us

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